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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 029701

15
ORIGIN NEA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-02 ISO-00 /005 R

66610
DRAFTED BY: NEA/INS:RDLORTON:MMK
APPROVED BY: NEA/INS:LBLAINGEN
---------- 023944
R 132147Z FEB 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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FOLLOWING REPEAT NEW DELHI 2141 ACTION KATHMANDU INFO SECSTATE PEKING 12 FEB

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2141

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, NP, CH, IN
SUBJECT: OBSERVATION TOUR FOR NEPALESE HEALTH OFFICIALS?

REF: KATHMANDU 0552

1. WE WOULD GUESS THAT INITIAL INDIAN REACTION TO USG FINANCING NEPALESE HEALTH OFFICIALS' TOUR OF PRC WOULD BE ONE OF PUZZLEMENT. WHY, THEY WOULD ASK, DOESN'T THE PRC FINANCE THE TOUR ITSELF? THE PRC MAKES A LARGE AID EFFORT IN NEPAL AND, LIKE INDIA, COULD EASILY PROVIDE SUCH A TOUR IF ASKED. (USG FINANCING OF A TOUR TO INDIA IS DIFFERENT BECAUSE THE USG IS USING INDIAN RUPEES ANYWAY, THEY WOULD ARGUE.)

2. WE ARE, OF COURSE, IN NO POSITION TO JUDGE THE MERITS OF THIS PROPOSAL INSOFAR AS IT PERTAINS TO DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE OR US-CHINA RELATIONS. IT DOES APPEAR TO US, HOWEVER, THAT, BY STIMULATING INDIAN SUSPICIONS, A US-SPONSORED CHINGES TOUR
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COULD CAUSE US DIFFICULTIES IN BOTH NEPAL AND INDIA. IT HAS

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BEEN OUR POLICY TO TRY TO ASSURE THE INDINS THAT WE ARE NOT
ACTING AGAINST THEIR INTERESTS IN THEIR NEIGHBORING SOUTH ASIAN
COUNTRIES. AN ACTION WHICH EVEN UNINTENTIONALLY IMPLIED THAT
THE US WAS TRYING TO STRENGTHEN SINO-NEPALESE RELATIONS COULD
BE SEEN IN DELHI AS A THREAT TO INDIAN INTERESTS IN NEPAL.
SUCH INDIAN SUSPICISONS COULD COMPLICATE OUR LIVES IN NEPAL
AND HARM OUR RELATIONS IN INDIA. EMBASSY DELHI, THEREFORE RE-
COMMENDS AGAINST THIS INTERESTING PROPOSAL.
SCHNEIDER
UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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